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can be reduced by quartering them on such craft, which would also allow the board to take contracts in places where it is now impossible for the gangs to go because marshy ground will not permit the establishment of a camp.—*The Times-Picayune*, April 4, 1915.

Labor Men to Aid Osborne.—A delegation of labor men called on Gov. Whitman on Feb. 1 to tell him that they proposed to help Thomas Mott Osborne, the new Warden of Sing Sing, put the industries in that prison on an efficient footing. They asked the Governor's support for their proposed co-operation and the Governor assured them of his appreciation of their offer.

In the delegation were Collis Lovely, vice president of the boot and shoe workers; Thomas J. Manning, representing the garment workers, and Hugh Franey, the New York representative of the American Federation of Labor. Accompanying the labor men were Warden Osborne, Frederick Goetze, dean of the science department at Columbia, and E. Stagg Whitin, member of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor.

There was a preliminary conference at Sing Sing a week earlier. The labor representatives propose to send union men up to the shops to make the industries efficient, and to establish an apprentice system which will train the prisoners for work at trades when they get out. The unions have all along opposed the old contract system, and are anxious to do all in their power to make effective the state-use system now in vogue.—From *New York Evening Post*, Feb. 2, 1915.

Capital Punishment.—It may be a matter of reasonable doubt to say that the death penalty does not stay the slayer because in states where capital punishment exists he has almost 98 chances out of 100 to escape. It would make a far more telling argument for the opposite opinion to say: "Give capital punishment a trial first before you attempt to abolish it." New York and Chicago together have a population about equal to London. In 1913 these two cities had a total of 417 murders; just twenty times as many as London, which, out of its twenty murderers, had hanged fifteen. May it not be possible that the slackness of the law, the misuse of its criminal proceedings, vastly more than the law itself must be blamed? Society owes to itself adequate protection. What guarantee has society against the murderer who, escaping the noose, goes to jail in the confidence that sooner or later he will be turned back on it? There are many awful features to capital punishment that are shocking and abhorrent, but we prefer these rather than a mawkish sentimentality that might leave us a prey to weak doctrinaires. Should capital punishment be abolished in this state, one safeguard should be given—the power of pardoning should be taken from the governor.—From the *New York World*.

Preliminary Report of the Commission on Prison Reform of the State of New York.—The Commission on Prison Reform of the State of New York was created on June 21, 1913, by appointment of the Governor of the State. He gave instructions to the members of the Commission to examine and investigate the management and affairs of the several State penitentiaries and reformatories, the departments thereof, the prison industries, the construction and plans for adequate prison facilities, the employment of convict labor, and all subjects relating to the proper maintenance and control of the prisons of the State of New York. The report is signed by: Professor George W.